

# EPA REGION III

◁Office of Public Affairs

◁PM Headlines

**Thursday, March 22, 2012**

**\*\*\* PM HOT LIST \*\*\***

## **Obama to fast-track oil pipeline, other projects**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** President Barack Obama will direct federal agencies to fast-track an oil pipeline from Oklahoma to Texas, backing a segment of the larger Keystone XL project that he rejected earlier this year. The 485-mile line from Cushing, Okla., to refineries on Texas' Gulf coast would remove a critical bottleneck in the country's oil transportation system, as rising oil production has outgrown pipelines' capacity to deliver oil to refineries. Obama's directive, to be announced Thursday, also would apply to other pipelines that alleviate choke points. It will be issued along with an executive order requiring agencies to make faster decisions on other infrastructure projects. For Obama, the announcement provides an answer to Republicans who say his energy policies, including the rejection of the larger Canada-Texas pipeline, have contributed to high gas prices and destroyed jobs.

## **EPA Considering Waiving Summer Fuel Rules for Pennsylvania**

**BLOOMBERG** The Environmental Protection Agency is considering a request that it waive stricter U.S. summer pollution rules for Pennsylvania, where idled refineries may prompt seasonal fuel shortages. Given rising gasoline prices, "of course we are considering it," Lisa Jackson, the EPA's administrator, told reporters today. Jackson earlier told the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works at a hearing that the EPA is in discussions with Pennsylvania state officials following reports of low supplies in the Pittsburgh area because of shuttered refineries. Pennsylvania Democratic Senator Bob Casey has asked Jackson to waive the summer pollution rules for the Pittsburgh area. Supplies of the seasonal blend of gasoline are limited and could cause price spikes because of reduced refinery output, Casey said in a letter to Jackson on March 16. Regular gasoline at the pump in the eastern U.S. was \$3.811 a gallon as of March 19, 7.7 percent higher than a year earlier, Energy Department data show.

## **Wasting our Waterways 2012**

**PENNENVIRONMENT** Industrial facilities continue to dump millions of pounds of toxic chemicals into America's rivers, streams, lakes and ocean waters each year—threatening both the environment and human health. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), pollution from industrial facilities is responsible for threatening or fouling water quality in more than 14,000 miles of rivers and streams, more than 220,000 acres of lakes, ponds and estuaries nationwide. The continued release of large volumes of toxic

chemicals into the nation's waterways shows that the nation needs to do more to reduce the threat posed by toxic chemicals to our environment and our health and to ensure that our waterways are fully protected against harmful pollution.

## **Study: Ohio River has most pollutants of major U.S. rivers**

**PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW** The Ohio River has more industrial pollutants than any major river in the country, according to a study released today by PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center, a nonprofit advocacy group based in Squirrel Hill. The Ohio received 32 million pounds of toxics in 2010. The river's tributaries, received an additional 13 million pounds. More than 20 percent of the toxics released into all U.S. waterways in 2010 were released into the Ohio or its tributaries. The analysis, compiled from federal data, does not take into account other pollutants — such as agricultural runoff or wastewater. Industrial facilities dumped 226 million pounds of toxic chemicals into American waterways in 2010, according to the federal government's Toxic Release Inventory. Toxic chemicals were discharged to more than 1,400 waterways in all 50 states. The group is calling on the federal government to restore Clean Water Act protections to all of America's waterways and improve enforcement. The reach of the Clean Water Act has been called into question as a result of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions, the group says.

## **Environment Maryland finds Baltimore source of most toxics released into Md. waterways**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)** BALTIMORE — A new report says industrial facilities dumped 1.4 million pounds of toxic chemicals into Maryland waterways in 2010, mostly in the Baltimore area. The report was released Thursday by Environment Maryland, which said it obtained the figures from Environmental Protection Agency reports. The report says 98 percent of the releases were in the Baltimore area, particularly Curtis Creek on the Baltimore-Anne Arundel County border. The chemicals include arsenic, mercury and benzene, which the environmental group says have been linked to cancer and developmental and reproductive disorders. The report calls on industrial facilities to switch to safer alternatives and for tougher permitting and enforcement by federal and state environmental regulators.

## **Report: Pa. 7th in nation in toxic substances released into waterways**

**PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE** Forty years ago the federal Clean Water Act set a goal to make all of America's rivers, streams, lakes and estuaries "fishable and swimmable" by 1985. But that didn't happen. A new report shows some of the nation's biggest water pollution problems are stubbornly persistent and are found throughout Pennsylvania and surrounding states. According to the report released in Pittsburgh today by the PennEnvironment Research and Policy Center, 226 million pounds of toxic chemicals were discharged and dumped into the nation's waterways in 2010, fouling 14,000 miles of rivers and streams and more than 220,000 acres of lakes, ponds and estuaries.

## **Quake Risk From *Fracking* Seen Cut With Disclosures, U.S. Says**

**BLOOMBERG** U.S. energy companies should report information on waste water from hydraulic fracturing to help officials reduce the risk of earthquakes, the head of the U.S. Geological Survey said. "We do need help from industry," Marcia McNutt, director of the U.S. Geological Survey, said today in an interview in Washington. "There is not good public information on the amount of water being pumped, and the rate at which it's pumped." The Ohio Department of Natural Resources proposed this month creating rules for transporting and disposing of the fluids after concluding quakes last year were probably caused by water from oil and natural-gas drilling, known as fracking, being injected into a disposal well. Companies including Exxon Mobil Corp. (XOM), Chevron Corp. (CVX) and Chesapeake Energy Corp. (CHK) pump millions of gallons of water, sand and chemicals underground to break up shale-rock formations and release the trapped gas.

## **Lung Association Defends Clean Air Act**

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC RADIO** The American Lung Association is hosting "Healthy Air Day" in Pittsburgh to back the Clean Air Act as a part of the organization's Red Carriage Initiative. Initially passed by Congress in 1970, the Clean Air Act allowed the Environmental Protection Agency to set national air quality guidelines. The law has been beefed up since; regulating different types of emissions and air quality standards, but the association is concerned about recent efforts to weaken the standards. Earlier this month the U.S. Senate narrowly rejected an amendment by Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine) that would have required the EPA to provide at least 3 and a half additional years to companies to comply with new regulations restricting mercury and toxic emissions from boilers and incinerators.

## **\*\*\* MORNING HOT LIST \*\*\***

### **Marcellus Shale driller offers**

#### **water to Franklin homes**

**SCRANTON TIMES-DISPATCH** FRANKLIN

TWP. - A natural gas drilling company installed vents on three Susquehanna County water wells on Wednesday as part of an effort to study and address high levels of methane found in the water supplies. Contractors for WPX Energy fitted the wells with tall white pipes topped with silver turbines to minimize the risk of the methane creating a fire or explosion hazard by seeping out of the water into enclosed spaces in the houses. The company, which is drilling for natural gas in the township, also sampled the air and water in the homes and arranged to provide each with a bulk water tank, or "buffalo," it will have regularly filled with replacement drinking water.

### **Battle brews over referendum**

**CENTRE DAILY TIMES** A disagreement regarding how best to protect Rush Township's water from Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling has created a political fracture destined to spill over into April's primary. Rush for Clean Water, an environmental group pushing for a ban on gas drilling, has acquired enough signatures to place a home rule charter referendum on April's ballot. If approved, the initiative would create a commission to explore possible changes to the township's existing form of government. The primary goal of the home rule movement, according to one of its chief proponents, is to let the township's residents decide directly whether to enact a drilling ban. "It will give more voice to the people, so supervisors cannot have the final say," said Mary Ann Williams, a Rush Township resident and leader of Rush for Clean Water.

### **Cracker would face air permit 'challenges,' DEP says**

**CHARLESTON GAZETTE** CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Lingerin pollution problems in key parts of West Virginia could eventually pose problems for any company that decides it wants to build a natural gas "cracker" facility in the state, a government regulator and an industry consultant agreed Wednesday. Parts of the Kanawha Valley, the Northern Panhandle and Wood County all remain listed as not meeting certain federal air quality standards, a designation that would require tougher emission controls for any major pollution source like a cracker facility.

### **South Fayette authorizes lawsuit against state Marcellus law**

**PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE** South Fayette commissioners voted 5-0 last night to participate in a multi-municipal lawsuit against the state's Marcellus Shale law. The board authorized the township solicitor to file a legal challenge against Act 13, work cooperatively with other municipalities and "engage appropriate experts." Attorney John Arminas said participation means South Fayette will proceed with litigation in an attempt to invalidate the law, in cooperation with Peters, Robinson and Cecil townships in Washington County.

## **Pa. DEP Issues Revised General Permit for Gas Wastewater Processing Facilities**

**PR NEWswire PRESS RELEASE** HARRISBURG, Pa., March 21, 2012 — /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The Department of Environmental Protection today announced it will publish in this week's Pennsylvania Bulletin a revised general permit for the processing and beneficial use of liquid waste from oil and gas well sites. "This permit encourages recycling of wastewater by providing regulatory clarity, consistency and predictability," said DEP Secretary Mike Krancer. "This permit replaces three existing general permits, which will improve efficiency and better protect our waterways." The revised Residual Waste Beneficial Use general permit (WMGR123) encourages using the closed-loop process, which is the reuse of liquid waste after it has been treated or processed. In this case, the liquid waste includes brine, flowback water, drilling muds and stormwater.

### **A big cleanup**

**BALTIMORE SUN** Editorial from The Record. **Save the Bay.** Now there's a slogan everyone can get behind. That's a good thing, too, because the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland's defining geological feature, has been in need of saving at least since the 1950s and probably well before that. Now comes the federal government, which is making grants of up to \$750,000 available to places like Havre de Grace designed to help local governments like the one in the city pay for reducing pollution entering the bay. It's a nice idea, but this is one instance where the government isn't spending enough. In all, \$4 million is being allocated through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and an organization called the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which has official links to the U.S. Department of Interior, the agency responsible for, among other things, federal parks.

### **High-Profile Environmental Bills Cause**

#### **Consternation WBAL TV - Baltimore**

**ANNAPOLIS, Md.** -- The pace is picking up in Annapolis for high-profile measures designed to protect the Chesapeake Bay, reduce electric bills and curb sprawl. A number of high-profile environmental bills, some of which comprise part of the governor's legislative priorities list, are now receiving the full attention of the General Assembly. A measure doubling the flush tax from \$30 to \$60 a year is on the House floor. The money would be used to help clean up the bay. A companion bill coming to the floor requires local jurisdictions to collect a storm-water utility fee, which would satisfy a federal mandate to curb pollution run off.

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## **PENNSYLVANIA**

### **PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER**

### **From Early Bird** Students at McKnight Elementary to release trout they raised

Something fishy is going on at McKnight Elementary School in McCandless. Students in Christian Shane's second-grade class are learning about coldwater conservation while raising brook trout from eggs to fingerlings in their classroom aquarium. The opportunity was made possible through Trout Unlimited's Trout in the Classroom interdisciplinary program. "In my 17 years of teaching, it's been one of my best projects," Mr. Shane said. "It's really awesome."

### **PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE**

**From Early Bird** South Fayette authorizes lawsuit against state Marcellus law South Fayette commissioners voted 5-0 last night to participate in a multi-municipal lawsuit against the state's Marcellus Shale law. The board authorized the township solicitor to file a legal challenge against Act 13, work cooperatively with other municipalities and "engage appropriate experts." Attorney John Arminas said participation means South Fayette will proceed with litigation in an attempt to invalidate the law, in cooperation with Peters, Robinson and Cecil townships in Washington County.

**Report: Pa. 7th in nation in toxic substances released into waterways** Forty years ago the federal Clean Water Act set a goal to make all of America's rivers, streams, lakes and estuaries "fishable and swimmable" by 1985. But that didn't happen. A new report shows some of the nation's biggest water pollution problems are stubbornly persistent and are found throughout Pennsylvania and surrounding states. According to the report released in Pittsburgh today by the PennEnvironment Research and Policy Center, 226 million pounds of toxic chemicals were discharged and dumped into the nation's waterways in 2010, fouling 14,000 miles of rivers and streams and more than 220,000 acres of lakes, ponds and estuaries.

### **ALLENTOWN MORNING**

**From Early Bird** Majority Party would put you in charge According to the latest polling data, 74 percent of Pennsylvanians want to tax the extraction of natural gas from Marcellus Shale, confirming a consistent trend in state polls. Sixty-one percent want the number of state employees reduced and state liquor stores sold. Seventy-nine percent oppose reducing funding for local school districts to balance the state budget. A whopping 88 percent want us to reform the way election campaigns are financed, and 81 percent want to reform the structure and operations of the state Legislature, including reducing its size and imposing term limits.

### **SCRANTON TIMES-DISPATCH**

**From Early Bird** Marcellus Shale driller offers water to Franklin homes FRANKLIN TWP. - A natural gas drilling company installed vents on three Susquehanna County water wells on Wednesday as part of an effort to study and address high levels of methane found in the water supplies. Contractors for WPX Energy fitted the wells with tall white pipes topped with silver turbines to minimize the risk of the methane creating a fire or explosion hazard by seeping out of the water into enclosed spaces in the houses. The company, which is drilling for natural gas in the township, also sampled the air and water in the homes and arranged to provide each with a bulk water tank, or "buffalo," it will have regularly filled with replacement drinking water.

**From Early Bird** Subsidence in Blakely doubles in size, gets filled Subsidence in Blakely doubles in size, gets filled A mine subsidence that formed last week in Blakely on a state road got bigger - much bigger. A small hole spotted on Route 247 by a man walking his dog Friday morning turned into a 50-foot deep subsidence. "Between Friday and Monday it doubled in size," said state Department of Transportation spokesman James May. The hole has been filled, Mr. May said. The state road between Main Street and Pleasant Avenue, however, likely will not reopen until about March 28, he said. The subsidence started out about the size of a pizza box, quickly increased to 25 feet in size, and continued to grow. Mr. May said PennDOT has filled the hole with 70 cubic yards of cement, 26 tons of rock and eight cubic yards of concrete. Asphalt will be placed on the subsidence after the cement settles, he added.

## **ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)**

**From Early Bird** W. Pa. Homes Cut Off By Sudden Release Of Water HOOVERSVILLE, Pa. (AP) - Officials say a western Pennsylvania road and bridge suddenly flooded after nearby blasting opened an unused water-filled mine. Department of Environmental Protection spokesman John Poister says water rose five feet over a bridge and temporarily isolated 10 to 12 homes Wednesday afternoon near Hooversville, about 75 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. No injuries or damage to residences were reported. Poister says local first responders report the bridge near Shade Street is intact and that water is receding.

## **CENTRE DAILY TIMES**

**From Early Bird** Battle brews over referendum A disagreement regarding how best to protect Rush Township's water from Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling has created a political fracture destined to spill over into April's primary. Rush for Clean Water, an environmental group pushing for a ban on gas drilling, has acquired enough signatures to place a home rule charter referendum on April's ballot. If approved, the initiative would create a commission to explore possible changes to the township's existing form of government. The primary goal of the home rule movement, according to one of its chief proponents, is to let the township's residents decide directly whether to enact a drilling ban. "It will give more voice to the people, so supervisors cannot have the final say," said Mary Ann Williams, a Rush Township resident and leader of Rush for Clean Water.

## **JOHNSTOWN TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT**

**From Early Bird** Buoyed by good news | 'Cracker' plant to add jobs, boost economy

Last week's decision by Shell Oil Co. to build a petroleum processing plant outside Pittsburgh is a major victory for our entire region. We applaud all who urged the Texas company to consider western Pennsylvania. That includes Gov. Tom Corbett, U.S. Sens. Bob Casey Jr. and Pat Toomey, and U.S. Reps. Jason Altmire and Mark Critz – and many others. The project should be a huge economic boost for our region.

## **BEAVER COUNTY TIMES**

**From Early Bird** County faces \$8 million shortfall, will seek concessions BEAVER -- Last week's news that a \$2.5 billion ethane cracker plant might be coming to Beaver County was overshadowed Wednesday by the more immediate concern that the county could have an \$8 million budget shortfall this year. "Everybody's a part of this," Commissioners Chairman Tony Amadio told union representatives. "We have to make this happen. We can't go back to the taxpayers." Previously, county officials said spiraling costs and cuts in federal and state reimbursements might leave the county-owned Friendship Ridge nursing home in Brighton Township as much as \$5 million in the hole by the end of the this year.

## **PR NEWswire PRESS RELEASE**

**From Early Bird** Pa. DEP Issues Revised General Permit for Gas Wastewater Processing Facilities

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**From Early Bird** DEP Fines Company for Bradford County Quarry

Bradford County, PA - The Department of Environmental Protection has fined a company that operates a stone quarry in Bradford County. The DEP fined Glenn O. Hawbaker Incorporated of Centre County, \$16,500 for air

quality violations from last October. The violations happened at their quarry in Burlington Township in Bradford County. DEP inspectors found a water spray system was not being used while stones were crushed, causing dust to be released at the site.

### **PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW**

Study: Ohio River has most pollutants of major U.S. rivers The Ohio River has more industrial pollutants than any major river in the country, according to a study released today by PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center, a nonprofit advocacy group based in Squirrel Hill. The Ohio received 32 million pounds of toxics in 2010. The river's tributaries, received an additional 13 million pounds. More than 20 percent of the toxics released into all U.S. waterways in 2010 were released into the Ohio or its tributaries. The analysis, compiled from federal data, does not take into account other pollutants — such as agricultural runoff or wastewater. Industrial facilities dumped 226 million pounds of toxic chemicals into American waterways in 2010, according to the federal government's Toxic Release Inventory. Toxic chemicals were discharged to more than 1,400 waterways in all 50 states. The group is calling on the federal government to restore Clean Water Act protections to all of America's waterways and improve enforcement. The reach of the Clean Water Act has been called into question as a result of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions, the group says.

Lawsuit planned on driller oversight A move among several elected community leaders seeking a court order to halt the implementation of a new oil and gas law is gaining momentum in Western Pennsylvania. A proposed lawsuit supported by leaders in five communities, a draft of which the Tribune-Review obtained, claims Act 13 unconstitutionally strips local governments of some of their power to regulate oil and gas drilling. The General Assembly last month approved the measure, which is scheduled to take effect April 14. "We've had overwhelming support in terms of municipalities joining as plaintiffs," John Smith, the solicitor who is working on the lawsuit pro bono on behalf of Cecil and Robinson townships, said on Wednesday. (See also Pittsburgh Post Gazette article)

### Engineer rips Latrobe Municipal Authority's sewage pla

Depending upon which engineering report is accurate, the Latrobe Municipal Authority's plan to construct a 4-million-gallon tank and pump station to prevent its sewage treatment plant from overloading during storms is either a viable solution or a faulty option that could be a waste of money.

Goodwill gets permit to collect electronic items The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has given Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania a permit to collect computers and other electronic items once a state law goes into effect, the nonprofit group announced today. Starting Jan. 24, 2013, the state's Covered Device Recycling Act will ban covered devices like desktop and laptop computers, monitors and televisions from landfills. T

### Natural gas customers set for relief

Three of the region's four biggest natural gas utilities are forecasting that customers' monthly bills will drop this summer or fall, with low market prices for the heating fuel continuing.

### **HAZLETON STANDARD-SPEAKER**

#### Council urged to reject drilling law

WILKES-BARRE - Opponents of state legislation on natural-gas drilling urged Luzerne County Council members to reject an ordinance establishing a gas impact fee at Wednesday's work session. "I will vote no," Councilman Stephen J. Urban told a crowd of about 20. "I am taking a stand." The state legislation requires the county to approve an ordinance establishing the fee by April 16. The ordinance could help the county and municipalities in the county get about \$50,000 in revenue, but a revenue estimate remains uncertain because the revenue totals will be based on the number of counties that approve the fee.

### Officials discuss lapses at area's nuke plant

BERWICK - The plant looms over this community. The steam that pours from its twin stacks can be seen from miles around, reminding residents of its presence and, for some, its potential for disaster. They fear radiation, cancer and a repeat of the lapses.

### ***TOWANDA DAILY REVIEW***

#### Ridgebury meeting on impact fee set for Monday

Ridgebury Township supervisors have scheduled a special meeting for next week to gather citizen input regarding the state's impact fee legislation. Township residents are welcome to express their feelings for or against the fee at 7 p.m. Monday at the Ridgebury Township Volunteer Fire Company's hall on Berwick Turnpike. Supervisors are seeking input from their constituents before they make a final decision on whether or not to support levying a fee on natural gas companies, said board chairman Gary Gee. Supervisors first brought up the idea of a public meeting focused on the fee at their regular monthly meeting earlier this month. At that time, the board also sought further information on the legislation at the county convention hosted by the Bradford County commissioners in Towanda. Gee said he and supervisors Kevin Yaggie and John Johnson attended the convention, which was held Monday at the Keystone Theatre. Gee said the supervisors received a clear explanation of the legislation there, and the information - along with public input - will assist them in making their decision.

#### Letter to the Editor, March 22, 2012

EDITOR: The recent passage of SB 1100/HB1950, the Impact Fee, is the first major action the state has taken to directly address the financial impact the Marcellus drilling activity has had on the state. Even with the state's Department of Revenue reporting that the Marcellus drilling companies have paid more than \$1.1 billion in taxes since 2006, the Impact Fee gained popular support outside of the major natural gas production counties. Although the energy production companies support the local decision to implement the Impact Fee, the coupling of the new fee with the decreasing price for dry gas, will inevitably have a negative impact on leasing and production activity in the northeastern Marcellus

### ***ERIE TIMES NEWS***

7500 pounds of trash gathered from Presque Isle, other Erie sites Midway between International Coastal Cleanups, local environmental officials were sharing results today from one event and drumming up support for the next. More than 7,500 pounds of trash, including 19,716 cigarette butts and cigar tips, were picked up during the 2011 cleanup at 15 sites in the Erie area. The 10th annual Pennsylvania-Lake Erie International Coastal Cleanup will be held Sept. 15 from 9 a.m. to noon at sites including Presque Isle State Park.

### ***ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)***

Environmentalists refile suit over Pa. PPG dump (yesterday) PennEnvironment and the Sierra Club have refiled a federal lawsuit alleging that a waste dump from a former PPG Industries plant has been leaking chemicals into the Allegheny River for 40 years. The groups sued PPG in January, but withdrew that lawsuit and filed a new complaint Tuesday because they hadn't properly given a required 60-day notice to one of the parties affected by the lawsuit. In the early 1900s, the Pittsburgh Plate Glass factory at Ford City about 40 miles northeast of Pittsburgh was the largest of its kind. The plant used waste lagoons at a 150-acre dump site to collect slurry containing arsenic, lead and other toxic metals.

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# DELAWARE

## **SUSSEX COUNTIAN**

Healthy Homes and *Lead Poisoning* Prevention program offers testing Dover — The Delaware Division of Public Health's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention program is offering lead poisoning testing for children throughout the state. The state of Delaware requires testing for children ages 12 months and older to prevent harmful exposure. Lead poisoning can cause permanent damage to the brain and kidneys, and may also lead to irreversible hearing loss or stunted growth. Lead poisoning is particularly dangerous because most children show no symptoms.

Exposure to lead can come from paint chips, dust from a parent's workplace, toys or other manufactured goods. Activities such as hunting and fishing may also expose children to lead.

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# WASHINGTON, D.C.

## **WASHINGTON POST**

No relevant news yet

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# WEST VIRGINIA

## **CHARLESTON GAZETTE**

From Early Bird Cracker would face air permit 'challenges,' DEP says CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Lingering pollution problems in key parts of West Virginia could eventually pose problems for any company that decides it wants to build a natural gas "cracker" facility in the state, a government regulator and an industry consultant agreed Wednesday. Parts of the Kanawha Valley, the Northern Panhandle and Wood County all remain listed as not meeting certain federal air quality standards, a designation that would require tougher emission controls for any major pollution source like a cracker facility.

## **WHEELING INTELLIGENCER**

From Early Bird Pipeline To Link Pair Of Projects

PITTSBURGH - Chesapeake Energy and its partners will run a 12-inch diameter pipeline to connect the northern and southern portions of its \$900 million natural gas processing complex in Harrison and Columbiana counties. In total, the Oklahoma City-based company plans to lay 200 miles of pipelines across eastern Ohio in 2012, most of which will be located in Harrison, Jefferson, Columbiana and Carroll counties. Mike Stice, president of Chesapeake Midstream Development, a subsidiary of Chesapeake Energy, spoke during the Marcellus Midstream Conference & Exhibition in Pittsburgh this week. He said the potential for collecting methane, ethane, butane, propane, pentane and even oil make the Utica and Marcellus shale formations very attractive to companies like his. ... In natural gas processing, the "dry" methane part of the gas stream is separated from the "wet" portions, like ethane, butane, propane and pentane. During fractionation, the natural gas liquids and other substances are separated from each

other. These separated gas products are then ready for use, with the ethane possibly going to a cracker plant.

### **WOWK - TV**

**From Early Bird** Tomblin signs *WV mine safety bill* West Virginia is updating mine safety laws in advance of the two-year anniversary of the nation's worst coal-mining disaster in decades. Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and House Speaker Rick Thompson were among those on hand Wednesday to mark legislation passed during the recent session. Several provisions respond to the Upper Big Branch disaster in Raleigh County, where an underground explosion killed 29 miners on April 5, 2010. The measure supports whistleblower protections encouraging miners to report unsafe conditions. It requires each mine's top on-site official to sign off on safety logs regularly. The bill also targets deadly methane gas and coal dust levels.

**Environmental Advocacy groups sue Boone, Nicholas county mines** Two West Virginia coal mines are the target of a recent federal lawsuit that alleges violations of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Clean Water Act. The Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and the Sierra Club filed the suit march 20 against Elk Run Coal Company and Alex Energy. The environmental advocacy groups claim Elk Run's Boone County mine discharged pollutants into Laurel Creek and its tributaries Mudlick Fork and Stolling Fork. The groups claim Alex Energy's Nicholas County mine discharged pollutants into the Robinson Fork watershed. ... The suit additionally stated the Environmental Protection Agency measured a West Virginia Stream Condition Index score of 58.76 on Laurel Creek. The suit stated the WVDEP designated a score of 68 as the minimum for biological integrity.

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## **MARYLAND**

### **BALTIMORE SUN**

Editorial from The Record. Save the Bay. Now there's a slogan everyone can get behind. That's a good thing, too, because the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland's defining geological feature, has been in need of saving at least since the 1950s and probably well before that. Now comes the federal government, which is making grants of up to \$750,000 available to places like Havre de Grace designed to help local governments like the one in the city pay for reducing pollution entering the bay. It's a nice idea, but this is one instance where the government isn't spending enough. In all, \$4 million is being allocated through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and an organization called the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which has official links to the U.S. Department of Interior, the agency responsible for, among other things, federal parks.

### **From Early Bird** Emmorton Elementary turns

**From Early Bird** A big cleanup trash into cash

Emmorton Elementary is taking the old saying "one man's trash is another man's treasure" to a whole new level. Since the beginning of the 2010 school year, the school on Tollgate Road has raised \$8,000 by recycling everyday trash, such as chip bags,

candy wrappers and juice pouches, through national program TerraCycle."Our kids are really excited about it," Emmorton's principal, Dr. Peter Carpenter, said. "It's an amazing program."Carpenter originally heard about TerraCycle from his cousin and became intrigued.

### **From Early Bird** To celebrate World Water Day, don't wash your jeans

It's World Water Day today. What will you be doing to preserve and conserve this precious resource? Several fashion brands will be celebrating the 19th annual event pioneered by the United Nations with challenges designed to bring awareness to crucial water issues. Employees at Levi Strauss & Co. in San Francisco are wearing the same jeans five days straight without washing them as part of the company's weeklong World Water Day Challenge. To aid its employees in sticking with the program, the company has set up cleaning stations around its office for spot-treating denim. ... "Asking people to think more about single-use plastics is a great way for people to tackle the water pollution issue without too much effort on their part.

### **ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL**

**From Early Bird** Algae blooms arrive early in bay ANNAPOLIS - Spring has arrived early and so have algae blooms in the Chesapeake Bay.

The Department of Natural Resources is tracking several spring algae blooms, including a large bloom of *prorocentrum* between Tangier Island and the Potomac River. Spa Creek in Annapolis also is suffering from a mahogany tide, possibly *prorocentrum*, said Bruce Michael, director of DNR's resource assessment service. Algae blooms are typical in the bay and its rivers when too many nutrients fuel the rapid growth of algae. When the algae die, they suck life-sustaining oxygen from the water. "They're a little bit earlier than we've seen in the past because of the warm temperatures and the warm, sunny weather," Michael said. DNR scientists also are already seeing low oxygen levels in the water in the main stem of the Chesapeake Bay. But it's not yet low enough to qualify as a "dead zone." Winds, rain or cool weather could improve the algae and oxygen situation in the bay..

### **FREDERICK NEWS POST**

**From Early Bird** Army scraps plans for new lab building at Detrick The Army is scrapping plans to build a high-security animal research laboratory to help speed U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for bio-defense drugs and vaccines at Fort Detrick, saying it will now roll the program into a facility already under construction at the post. Fort Detrick officials said Wednesday that demand was not high enough after it performed a need-based study on whether to construct the building, called the Medical Countermeasures Test and Evaluation Center. While the center's mission will not change, it will now be transferred from the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Development Activity to the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases, which has new labs already under construction on the post with a completion date set for 2014, USAMMDA program manager Kathleen Berst said Wednesday.

### **WBAL TV - Baltimore**

**From Early Bird** High-Profile Environmental Bills Cause Consternation ANNAPOLIS, Md. -- The pace is picking up in Annapolis for high-profile measures designed to protect the Chesapeake Bay, reduce electric bills and curb sprawl. A number of high-profile environmental bills, some of which comprise part of the governor's legislative priorities list, are now receiving the full attention of the General Assembly. A measure doubling the flush tax from \$30 to \$60 a year is on the House floor. The money would be used to help clean up the bay. A companion bill coming to the floor requires local jurisdictions to collect a storm-water utility fee, which would satisfy a federal mandate to curb pollution run off.

### **WATER WORLD**

**From Early Bird** Membrane-based stormwater treatment technology receives key approval in Maryland ROCKVILLE, MD, Mar. 21, 2012 -- Innovative membrane-based stormwater treatment technology from Imbrium

**Systems** has received full use approval by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for stand-alone **water quality** treatment. The Jellyfish Filter is a compact **stormwater treatment** technology with significantly higher flow capacity and treatment surface area (80 gpm per standard hi-flo cartridge) with just one-third the footprint and one-fifth the weight of conventional stormwater filtration systems.

### ***ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)***

Environment Maryland report finds Baltimore source of most toxics released into Md. waterways

BALTIMORE — A new report says industrial facilities dumped 1.4 million pounds of toxic chemicals into Maryland waterways in 2010, mostly in the Baltimore area. The report was released Thursday by Environment Maryland, which said it obtained the figures from Environmental Protection Agency reports. The report says 98 percent of the releases were in the Baltimore area, particularly Curtis Creek on the Baltimore-Anne Arundel County border. The chemicals include arsenic, mercury and benzene, which the environmental group says have been linked to cancer and developmental and reproductive disorders. The report calls on industrial facilities to switch to safer alternatives and for tougher permitting and enforcement by federal and state environmental regulators.

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## **VIRGINIA**

### ***HAMPTON ROADS DAILY PRESS***

From Early Bird Stormwater regulations to affect business park How the city of Hampton plans to treat contaminants found in stormwater running off the roofs and roads at the Hampton Roads Center Business Park North campus will become a factor in future development of the park. Stricter state regulations directing municipalities on how to treat stormwater runoff and the pollutants found in it will take effect on July 1, 2019. Any development after that date in the 470-acre park off Magruder Boulevard will be forced to follow those guidelines. So with just 15 percent of the park currently developed, the Hampton Industrial Development Authority will need to look at how to treat water at the site for areas not developed by that date.

### ***CHATHAM STAR TRIBUNE***

Uranium working group to meet in Chatham

The Virginia Coal and Energy Commission's Uranium Mining Subcommittee and Gov. Bob McDonnell's Uranium Working Group will hold the first of four public meetings Monday, June 18, in Chatham. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at Chatham High School. Similar meetings are planned in August, October and November. In January, McDonnell established a working group of experts from the Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy to examine the health and safety concerns, environmental questions, and economic impact from uranium mining.

### ***ASSOCIATED PRESS (Va.)***

Appeals court in Va. hears challenge of NC bypass RICHMOND, Va. - A federal appeals panel on Wednesday heard a challenge of a proposed toll road in the Charlotte, N.C., area, with opponents claiming state transportation officials used a flawed process to assess the environmental impact of the \$800 million project. Attorneys

representing conservation groups want a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn a lower court ruling last October allowing the Monroe Bypass to move forward. The court typically rules a few weeks after hearing arguments.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### ***ASSOCIATED PRESS***

From Early Bird Beekeepers, environmentalists ask EPA to suspend use of pesticide that may be harmful to bees FRESNO, Calif. — Commercial beekeepers and environmental organizations filed a petition Wednesday, asking federal regulators to suspend use of a pesticide they say harms honeybees. The group is urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ban the insecticide clothianidin, one of a class of chemicals that act on the central nervous system of insects.

Controversial strawberry pesticide pulled from USA pesticide used primarily in the strawberry industry is being pulled from the U.S. market by its Japanese manufacturer, a surprising move that comes after harsh criticism from environmentalists and farmworkers who claim the chemical is toxic and may cause cancer. Tokyo-based Arysta LifeScience Inc. said late Tuesday that it was immediately suspending the sales, marketing and production of all formulations of the fumigant Midas, or methyl iodide, in the U.S. The company said the decision was based on the product's economic viability in the United States.

Obama to fast-track oil pipeline, other projects President Barack Obama will direct federal agencies to fast-track an oil pipeline from Oklahoma to Texas, backing a segment of the larger Keystone XL project that he rejected earlier this year. The 485-mile line from Cushing, Okla., to refineries on Texas' Gulf coast would remove a critical bottleneck in the country's oil transportation system, as rising oil production has outgrown pipelines' capacity to deliver oil to refineries. Obama's directive, to be announced Thursday, also would apply to other pipelines that alleviate choke points. It will be issued along with an executive order requiring agencies to make faster decisions on other infrastructure projects. For Obama, the announcement provides an answer to Republicans who say his energy policies, including the rejection of the larger Canada-Texas pipeline, have contributed to high gas prices and destroyed jobs.

Obama, GOP vie for upper hand on energy Wooing a nation of increasingly angry motorists, President Barack Obama and his Republican rivals are all plunging into gas-pump politics, seeking the upper hand as energy becomes a driving issue in the election campaign. The president is defending his energy agenda this week, traveling Wednesday to a solar panel plant in Nevada and oil and gas fields in New Mexico and the site of a future oil pipeline in Oklahoma that the White House is promising to accelerate. At the same time, GOP opponents from front-runner Mitt Romney on down are vigorously accusing him of stifling domestic production and betting on foolhardy alternative energy methods over traditional oil drilling. With gasoline reaching \$3.86 a gallon in the U.S. and apparently heading higher, the public is impatient for Obama \_ or someone in his place \_ to do something about it.

### ***NEW YORK TIMES***

From Early Bird Obama Tours Four States to Defend Energy Policy BOULDER CITY, Nev. — Against the desert backdrop of the nation's largest solar energy installation, President Obama on Wednesday assailed Republican critics of his clean energy policies as "the flat earth society" even as he sought to demonstrate his own

support for domestic oil and gas production. Before Mr. Obama spoke at the solar plant southeast of Las Vegas, administration officials previewed an executive order that the president will announce on Thursday in Oklahoma to expedite federal permits for the southern half of the Keystone XL oil pipeline to the Gulf of Mexico. Republicans derided the move as a political stunt, intended only to blunt their criticism of Mr. Obama's decision in January to reject, on environmental grounds, a northern leg of the pipeline from Canada to Cushing, Okla.

**From Early Bird** *A Clash Over Mining and Water* SAN FRANCISCO — A plan to dig a vast copper mine in arid southern Arizona is pitting the needs of American industry — and arguably the national economy — against a coalition of local residents and environmentalists. Opponents say the mine will destroy an area of outstanding ecological importance and, perhaps more important, threaten the area's most valuable resource: Water.

**From Early Bird** *Imagining Carbon Emissions in Underground Exile*

In a perfect world, greenhouse gas emissions would be on the decline in the near future, with fossil fuels replaced by clean sources of energy like wind and solar. But current emissions are so daunting that the chances of the planet cleaning up its act in a timely manner are slim.

## ***LA TIMES***

**From Early Bird** *Clouded readings of EPA study of Dimock water, featured in 'Gasland'*

Environmental Protection Agency reports recently obtained by several Pennsylvania families who feared their well water was polluted by natural gas drilling appear to contradict the agency's original statement late last week that the water was safe to drink, according to the investigative website ProPublica and the environmental group Water Defense. A week ago, the EPA said that tests of the well water of 11 families in Dimock, Pa., out of a total of 60 the agency said it would analyze "did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern." Starting in 2009, some residents of Dimock, a small town in northeastern Pennsylvania, have complained that their well water turned cloudy and foul-smelling after an oil and gas company drilled for gas using hydraulic fracturing, a controversial extraction technique that involves shooting underground water and sand laced with chemicals to unlock reservoirs of fossil fuels.

## ***ALLGOV***

**From Early Bird** *Rebranding Sewage Sludge as Compost*

If one Washington lobby has its way, sewage sludge will be rebranded as compost, making it easier for crops to be exposed to toxic materials. Pushing the rebranding effort is the U.S. Composting Council, an organization founded by the makers of disposable diapers. The lobbying group has hired a public relations firm, Colehour + Cohen, to help influence lawmakers, bureaucrats and the public into thinking that compost can safely include medical, industrial and human waste. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has said all sewage sludge contains toxic and hazardous materials, including endocrine disruptors that can affect hormone production in humans. However, whereas the U.S. Department of Agriculture bars the use of sewage sludge in growing foods labeled as organic, the EPA has deemed it a "beneficial fertilizer."

## ***BLOOMBERG***

*EPA Considering Waiving Summer Fuel Rules for Pennsylvania* The Environmental Protection Agency is considering a request that it waive stricter U.S. summer pollution rules for Pennsylvania, where idled refineries may prompt seasonal fuel shortages. Given rising gasoline prices, "of course we are considering it," Lisa Jackson, the EPA's administrator, told reporters today. Jackson earlier told the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works at a hearing that the EPA is in discussions with Pennsylvania state officials following reports of low supplies in the Pittsburgh area because of shuttered refineries. Pennsylvania Democratic Senator Bob Casey has asked Jackson to waive the summer pollution rules for the Pittsburgh area. Supplies of the seasonal blend of gasoline are limited and could cause price spikes because of reduced refinery output, Casey said in a letter to Jackson on March 16. Regular gasoline at the pump in the eastern U.S. was \$3.81 a gallon as of March 19, 7.7

percent higher than a year earlier, Energy Department data show.

Quake Risk From *Fracking* Seen Cut With Disclosures, U.S. Says U.S. energy companies should report information on waste water from hydraulic fracturing to help officials reduce the risk of earthquakes, the head of the U.S. Geological Survey said. "We do need help from industry," Marcia McNutt, director of the U.S. Geological Survey, said today in an interview in Washington. "There is not good public information on the amount of water being pumped, and the rate at which it's pumped." The Ohio Department of Natural Resources proposed this month creating rules for transporting and disposing of the fluids after concluding quakes last year were probably caused by water from oil and natural-gas drilling, know as fracking, being injected into a disposal well. Companies including Exxon Mobil Corp. (XOM), Chevron Corp. (CVX) and Chesapeake Energy Corp. (CHK) pump millions of gallons of water, sand and chemicals underground to break up shale-rock formations and release the trapped gas.

## ***EHS TODAY***

Water Is Worth It: EPA Celebrates 40th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act

In honor of the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, EPA has an important message: Water is worth it. The Clean Water Act as we know it was established 1972, making 2012 its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of striving to reduce pollution in the nation's water sources. "We have made great progress in reducing pollution during the past 40 years," states EPA's special Clean Water Act anniversary Web page. "But many challenges remain and we must work together to protect clean water for our families and future generations. Everyone has an impact on the water and we are all responsible for making a difference. Water is worth it."

## ***PENNVIRONMENT***

Wasting our Waterways 2012

Industrial facilities continue to dump millions of pounds of toxic chemicals into America's rivers, streams, lakes and ocean waters each year—threatening both the environment and human health. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), pollution from industrial facilities is responsible for threatening or fouling water quality in more than 14,000 miles of rivers and streams, more than 220,000 acres of lakes, ponds and estuaries nationwide. The continued release of large volumes of toxic chemicals into the nation's waterways shows that the nation needs to do more to reduce the threat posed by toxic chemicals to our environment and our health and to ensure that our waterways are fully protected against harmful pollution.

## ***WDTV***

Living Next to a Natural Gas Well; Drinking Contaminated Water Back in November 5 News introduced you to a Harrison County woman who says her life was changed completely when natural gas drilling wells were put up just a few hundred feet from her home. She was put on sleeping medication, got into a car accident with a well truck, and even took money from her savings account for an early vacation. We caught up with her to see what she's dealing with now. Although the drilling and hydraulic fracturing ended a couple months ago and the noise has finally died down, Leann Kiner says the repercussions continue to haunt her. What happened this weekend was just a reminder her property may never be the same. "I hate my home. I hate living here now. A place I used to love; I now despise," said Leann Kiner, a homeowner. Her biggest fears were confirmed when she found out from a neighbor, not Antero Resources, that a "water buffalo" had to be installed next to her house. "I still didn't really realize what was going on at the time. I didn't know they was going to tap into my whole house," said Kiner. Subcontractors were called in by the drilling company Antero Resources to install a 2,500 gallon drinking water tank. Leann no longer has access to her well water. Kiner said "I had great well water. In fact I have a girlfriend who can vouch for that. She loved to take a shower here because it made her hair so soft." High levels of the chemical are in both Kiners and her neighbors wells.

## ***WALL ST. JOURNAL***

Rendell, Pickens Push For *Natural Gas* Former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell says the natural gas boom is the nation's largest energy opportunity, and that concerns about the impact on the environment of hydro fracturing, or "fracking" techniques used to produce gas shouldn't hold the nation back from exploiting gas to reduce its reliance on foreign oil. "The politics today is all about false choices," Mr. Rendell says, speaking at The Wall Street Journal's Eco:nomics conference in Santa Barbara, Calif. "Technology is going to put an end to this debate." He said that there is no form of energy, including wind-power and other renewable energy, "that doesn't have a downside." Also at the conference, Texas oilman and renewable energy investor T. Boone Pickens said the U.S. natural gas boom is a "global game changer" because it has the potential to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil. "The U.S. has the greatest opportunity sitting on the table that you can possibly imagine," Pickens says. Pickens, who has been pushing natural gas as a vehicle fuel, says the U.S. must build up its natural gas industry to compete against state-owned oil companies around the world.(FULL ARTICLE)

## ***STEUBEN COURIER***

Reed: Chesapeake mandate 'burdensome' Elmira, NY —U.S. Rep. Tom Reed is proposing new legislation in Congress he says will help protect Southern Tier municipalities, farms and other businesses from a costly U.S. Environmental Protection Agency initiative to clean up the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The EPA's Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TDML) mandate sets pollution limits for streams and rivers in the 64,000-square-mile watershed, which covers six states and the District of Columbia. The goal is to restore clean water in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, help aquatic species to recover and make the waterways swimmable and fishable.

## ***POLITICO***

SCOTUS: EPA's Clean Water Act decisions can face court challenges The Supreme Court dealt a blow to the EPA on Wednesday with a unanimous ruling that allows some of the agency's decisions under the Clean Water Act to be challenged in court. Property owners previously had no way to ask a judge to strike down EPA's decisions on whether their property included wetlands. Instead, they had to refuse to comply with the agency's orders and face fines that increased daily until the EPA took them to court — by which time, critics said, the penalties could amount to millions of dollars. But in *Sackett v. EPA*, the high court said Wednesday that owners can go to a judge to challenge the EPA's determinations under the Administrative Procedure Act. The justices didn't rule on the specifics of the Sacketts's case.